

Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment:

New Permanent Fixed Anchors in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Wilderness Areas

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What are Permanent Fixed Anchors?

- “Permanent fixed anchor” is defined as hardware requiring the **alteration of the rock** where the placement is to occur. Permanent fixed anchors include **bolts and pitons**. This definition does not include temporary devices, such as slings, nuts, camming devices, and other removable anchors that do not alter rock surfaces.

(BLM Instruction Memorandum 2007-084)



Photo credit: mountainproject.com



Photo credit: mountainproject.com, Ron Olsen



La Madre Mountain and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas

- La Madre Mountain and Pine Creek Wilderness Study Areas designated in the 1980's.
- La Madre Mountain and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas designated by congress in 2002.
- Multijurisdictional Wilderness areas (BLM and USFS).



Photo credit: wilderness.net



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Study Area: La Madre Mountain and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Areas

La Madre Mountain Wilderness

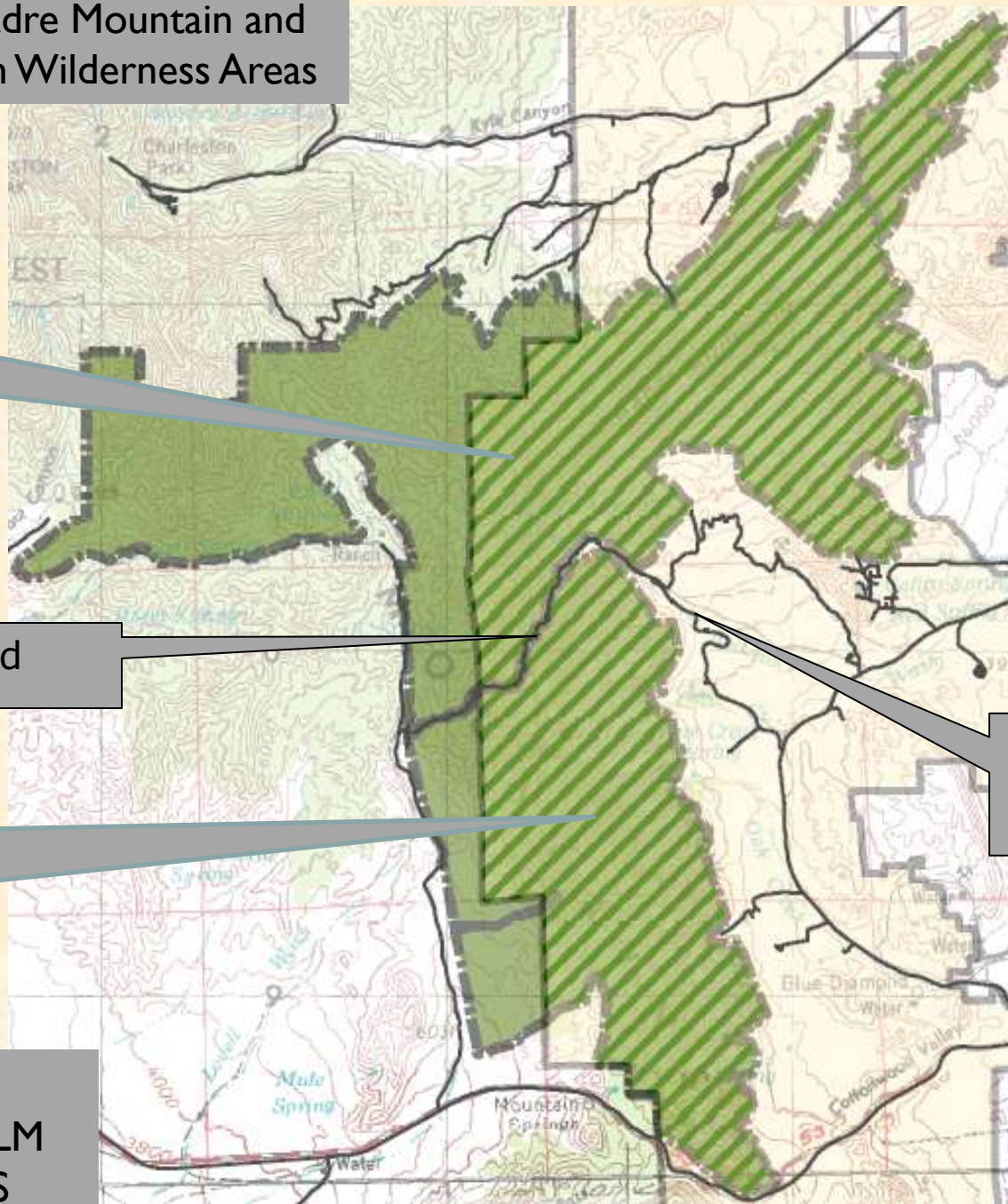
Rocky Gap Road

Rainbow Mountain Wilderness

Scenic Drive

Legend:

Dashed Green: BLM
Solid Green: USFS



Wilderness Act:

- The Wilderness Act of 1964 is Federal Law that defines Congressionally designated Wilderness in the United States.
- The Wilderness Act, specifically 16 USC 1133(b), directs that “each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving [its] **wilderness character.**”



Wilderness Character:

Wilderness character is measured and monitored by land managers against four tangible qualities:

1. Untrammeled
2. Natural
3. Undeveloped
4. Opportunity for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Fixed anchors may influence these qualities of Wilderness character.



RMP: Current Management Decision

- **4B2.5c The placement of new bolts will not be allowed in WSAs [or Wilderness Areas].** The Pine Creek and La Madre Mt. WSAs are recommended for Wilderness designation. Should the (eventual) Congressionally designated boundaries be different from those proposed, NCA policy and management will adjust accordingly. In addition, if the direction regarding bolting set forth in the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* changes, the issue may be reconsidered depending on the new direction.

(RMP Record of Decision(ROD), page 17, 2005)



BLM Agency Guidance for Fixed Anchors in Wilderness:

- **Instruction Memorandum No. 2007-084**: Local BLM managers may identify instances where the use of permanent fixed anchors is ***appropriate or inappropriate*** in Wilderness Areas.
- **BLM Wilderness Handbook 6340**: Management of Designated Wilderness Areas: Authorization ***may be appropriate*** for allowing the placement of permanent, fixed anchors. The BLM will ***not authorize the public to install permanent, fixed anchors using motorized equipment.***



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Assessment (EA)

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for any decision/action on federal lands.
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a tool for determining the significance of environmental impacts; it provides a basis for rational decision making.



RMP Amendment and Associated Environmental Assessment (EA)

Why:

1. RMP Amendments are required to change or update a specific decision previously made in an existing plan.
2. Public interest in this management decision is high and will benefit from a separate planning process.
3. Other planning efforts can not overrule a decision made in the RMP.

What:

1. Consider management decisions for **new** permanent fixed anchors within BLM portions of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness areas.



Important Steps for Public Involvement

- Publish Notice of Intent (NOI): October 2012
- Public Scoping Workshops to develop Draft EA alternatives: October 2012
- Public Review of Draft EA and Public Meetings (30 Days): July 2013
- Final EA and Decision Record(DR) published in Federal Register: January 2014



Submit Your Comments

- Leave your comments today or
- Submit a Comment Form or Letter to:
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Appropriateness of Fixed Anchors in Wilderness:

Discuss and answer questions at four stations:

- 1. Activities and Ethics**
- 2. Permits and Enforcement**
- 3. Cultural, Visual, and Natural Resources**
- 4. Wilderness and Wilderness Character**

Responses to these questions will help the BLM frame and analyze a full range of alternatives for this plan.



Questions?
Thank you!

